



HAWAII TEAMSTERS AND ALLIED WORKERS, LOCAL 996

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May 24, 2011

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or transfer control of licenses and authorizations (WT Proceeding No. 11-65)

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is in response to the call for comments on the proposed AT&T/T-Mobile merger. The outcome of this merger will be good for workers and families here in Hawaii and Local 996 supports it enthusiastically.

As you may know, this merger is expected to expand and enhance the existing network infrastructure and in doing so, will make high-speed broadband available to virtually all Americans, including to those living in smaller or rural communities. This is great news for consumers, businesses, and workers.

For workers in Hawaii, the increased availability of reliable, high-speed wireless will mean better coverage and improved safety for our drivers as well as better on-the-job communication between workers. One of our major employers is the movie industry, and an enhanced network will mean faster service and more capabilities for their crews, which will increase efficiency, helping our entire community in the process.

High-speed broadband also brings opportunities for professional and educational advancements, distance learning and improved job training, and many other possibilities for workers and job-seekers. This access will assist us with our outreach and community-building efforts and will be an essential tool that helps workers educate themselves about their rights, available services, and promotion opportunities.

Advanced communications technology has the power to unlock potential and reveal possibilities for workers everywhere, and faster broadband access is the way we all get there. All people should have equal access to this technology and to the future opportunities it delivers as well as to the innovation it drives. Please support this merger on behalf of workers here in Hawaii and elsewhere. Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Millie Downey
Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell